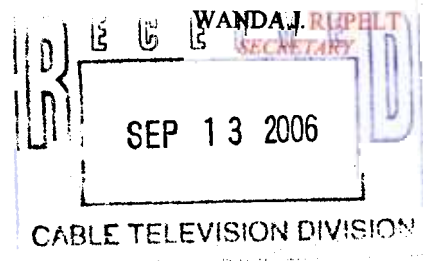




CITY OF FITCHBURG  
MASSACHUSETTS  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

DAN H. MYLOTT  
MAYOR

ROBERT A. PONTBRIAND  
ASSISTANT TO THE MAYOR



September 11, 2006

Ms. Andrea Nixon, Clerk  
DTE, Cable Television Division  
One South Station  
Boston, MA 02110

Dear Ms. Nixon:

On behalf of the City of Fitchburg, I am writing to enter the City of Fitchburg's official opposition to Verizon's petition which is currently before the DTE. The opposition to the Verizon Petition stems largely from the fact that it would drastically decrease competition for cable television services. It has been the municipal officials such as myself, through negotiations who have been at the forefront of ensuring competition and lower prices while maintaining quality services and important public education and government access for our constituents. Most importantly, local control of cable franchising enhances consumer protections while ensuring that taxpayers' interests are put first.

From experience, it is impossible for a municipality to properly conclude an initial license application review, negotiation, license drafting and issuance within 30 days of the public hearing. The existing license timetables have worked well for decades. They should not be changed at the behest of a single proponent. To date, I have not seen any credible evidence that these changes are necessary. There is no rational basis for casting aside the time tested licensing rules and replacing them with radically abbreviated rules.

In conclusion, the City of Fitchburg would like to go on record as being officially in opposition to Verizon's Petition before DTE.

Cordially,

Dan H. Mylott  
Mayor